The 2026 Criminal Justice Institute Faculty

Excellence and Experience for Every Session

Distinguished Speakers

Chief Justice-Designate Theodora Gaïtas (she/her)

Justice Gaïtas serves as a justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court. She will become the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court upon the retirement of Chief Justice Natalie Hudson on September 30th. Justice Gaïtas is the only sitting justice to have experience serving on all three levels of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, as she previously served as a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals and as a judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith M. Ellison

Attorney General Keith Ellison represented Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 to 2019, Before being elected to Congress, Attorney General Ellison served four years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Prior to entering elective office, he spent 16 years as an attorney specializing in civil rights and defense law, including five years as executive director of the Legal Rights Center. Attorney General Ellison received his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Caleb J. Anthony
Ramsay Law Firm, PLLC
Roseville

Molly K. Bruner
Scott County Community Corrections
Shakopee

● **Carolyn Agin Bruno**
Bruno Law, PLLC
Minneapolis

● **Frederic K. Bruno**
Bruno Law, PLLC
Minneapolis

Judge Jean E. Burdorf
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis

Anthony W. Bushnell
Crown College
Saint Bonifacius

Judge Sean Cahill
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis

● **Jodie L. Carlson**
Minnesota Court of Appeals
Saint Paul

Judge Leonardo Castro
Second Judicial District
Saint Paul

● **John J. Choi**
Ramsey County Attorney
Saint Paul

Wesley J. Cornwell
Amicus Law PC
Saint Paul

Clare A. Diegel
Hennepin County Attorney's Office
Minneapolis

Judge Bridgid E. Dowdal
Tenth Judicial District
Center City

Attorney General Keith M. Ellison
Minnesota Attorney General
Saint Paul

Anders J. Erickson
Johnson Erickson Criminal Defense
Minneapolis

Judge Juanita C. Freeman
Tenth Judicial District
Stillwater

Chief Justice-Designate Theodora K. Gaïtas
Minnesota Supreme Court
Saint Paul

Jon Geffen
The Legal Revolution
Minneapolis

● **Marsh J. Halberg**
Halberg Criminal Defense
Bloomington

Harry M. Jacobs
Thompson & Jacobs PLLC
Minneapolis

Courtney R. Jasper
Poul Haas Government Relations
Saint Paul

● **Karen Kampa Jaszewski**
State Court Administrator's Office
Saint Paul

● **Julie A. Jonas**
University of St. Thomas
School of Law
Minneapolis

Nicole A. Kettwick
Brandt Kettwick Defense
North Oaks

Daniel J. Koewler
Ramsay Law Firm, PLLC
Roseville

Amy R. Lawler
Office of the Minnesota Appellate Public Defender
Saint Paul

Erica L. Madore
Anoka County Attorney's Office
Anoka

Linda M. McBrayer
Minnesota Sentencing Commission
Saint Paul

● **Chief Judge Kerry W. Meyer**
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis

Cathryn Y. Middlebrook
Office of the Minnesota Appellate Public Defender
Saint Paul

Kelly Lynn Mitchell
Minnesota Sentencing Commission
Saint Paul

Natalia Mydraga
Momentum Advocacy
Saint Paul

Kristi A. Nielsen
Office of the Minnesota Attorney General
Saint Paul

● **Christopher X. Nguyen**
Aberrant Law PLLC
Minneapolis

Alan F. Pendleton
Martine Law, PLLC
Minneapolis

Adam E. Petras
Hennepin County Attorney's Office
Minneapolis

Jennifer L. Pradt
The Law Offices of Jennifer L. Pradt
Saint Paul

Thomas R. Ragatz
Office of the Minnesota Attorney General
Saint Paul

Charles A. Ramsay
Ramsay Law Firm, PLLC
Roseville

Nathaniel J. Reitz
Minnesota Sentencing Commission
Saint Paul

David J. Risk
Halberg Criminal Defense
Bloomington

Judge Colette Routel
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis

Judge Jon Schmidt
Minnesota Court of Appeals
Saint Paul

Professor David A. Schultz
Hamline University and University of St. Thomas
School of Law
Saint Paul/Minneapolis

Jeffrey S. Sheridan
Sheridan & Dulas, P.A.
Eagan

Carli E. Stark
Minnesota Clemency Review Commission
Saint Paul

Ryan J. Tauer
FindLaw
Minneapolis

Joseph H. Thompson
Thompson & Jacobs PLLC
Minneapolis

● **David S. Voigt**
Office of the Minnesota Attorney General
Saint Paul

Shawn P. Webb
First District Public Defender's Office
Hastings

Robert I. Yount
Hennepin County Attorney's Office
Minneapolis

● **Institute Planner**

Minnesota Continuing Legal Education
700 NICOLLET MALL, SUITE 200, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minnesota Continuing Legal Education

DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE EXPEDITE!

50 YEARS 1976-2026

Register today at www.minncle.org

The 61st Annual
Criminal Justice Institute

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, AUGUST 19 & 20, 2026
Attend In Person
Minnesota CLE Conference Center
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370, Minneapolis

Can't attend the live seminar?
View an online replay Thursday & Friday, September 10 & 11, 2026
www.minncle.org

Register online at www.minncle.org
Email **customerservice@minncle.org** or call **800-759-8840** for assistance.

TUITION:

$445	MSBA member / paralegal
$445	government lawyers
$495	standard rate

SEASON PASSHOLDERS:

- **Super Passholders** may attend the in-person seminar or the online replay at no charge.
- **In-Person Passholders** may attend the in-person seminar at no charge or the online replay for 50% off.
- **Online Passholders** may attend the in-person seminar for 50% off or the online replay at no charge.

NEW LAWYER DISCOUNT!
New lawyers admitted to the bar less than 5 years receive a 50% discount.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!
Minnesota CLE maintains a scholarship program for those with a financial need. To obtain a scholarship application, contact **customerservice@minncle.org**.

JOIN THE MSBA AND PAY LESS FOR MINNESOTA CLE SEMINARS!
To join the MSBA go to **www.mnbar.org**
Or for more membership advantages call **1-800-882-6722**

5359-27
abd | PAtlp

Minnesota Continuing Legal Education
Your Success Is Our Goal

AUGUST 19 & 20, 2026
Minnesota CLE Conference Center

The 61st Annual
Criminal Justice Institute

Navigating the Changing Currents of Minnesota Justice

FEATURED SESSIONS

White Collar Crackdown – Fraud Enforcement in Minnesota in 2026
– *Harry M. Jacobs*
Kristi A. Nielsen
Joseph H. Thompson

Federalism, Sovereignty and Criminal Enforcement in Minnesota
– *Professor David A. Schultz*

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

- **Chief Justice-Designate Theodora Gaïtas**
State of the Judiciary
- **Minnesota Attorney General Keith M. Ellison**
Minnesota Attorney General's Address

PLUS

- Conference Luncheon at Fogo de Chão
- 3 Tracks – New Developments, DWI, Trial Advocacy Masterclasses

In-Depth Analysis of New Developments Impacting Criminal Justice in Minnesota

Essential Updates
- New Cases
- New Legislation

Cutting-Edge Topics
- Federalism and State Sovereignty
- Using AI

Trial Advocacy
- Cross-examination
- Appeals

Critical Discussions
- Juvenile Justice
- Fraud

A Special Thank You to Our Esteemed Faculty

The presenters appearing in this program donated their time, effort and expertise for the benefit of the criminal justice system and the advancement of the legal profession. We thank them for their dedication and generosity.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

GOLD SPONSORS

DWI Solutions
Driver's License Reinstatement Services

FindLaw
An Internet Brands® Company

SILVER SPONSOR

SMART START
smartstartmn.com • 952.224.7050

BRONZE SPONSORS

SafeGuard

Above the Bar Marketing

And the MSBA Criminal Law Section, Minnesota County Attorney's Association, the Office of the Minnesota Public Defender, The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Office of Continuing Legal Education for State Court Personnel, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Keeping You and Your Criminal Practice at the Forefront of Advocacy and Innovation

DAY 1 – AUGUST 19

8:15 – 8:45 a.m.
CHECK-IN & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.
WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

PLENARY SESSIONS

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.
State of the Judiciary
– *Chief Justice-Designate Theodora Gaïtas*

9:30 – 9:35 a.m.
BREAK

9:35 – 10:05 a.m.
Minnesota Attorney General's Update
– *Minnesota Attorney General Keith M. Ellison*
Deputy Attorney General David Voigt

10:05 – 10:15 a.m.
NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR BREAK

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
The Recent Minnesota Decisions Every Criminal Attorney Needs to Know
– *Amy R. Lawler*
Adam E. Petras

FEATURED KEYNOTE

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
White Collar Crackdown – Fraud Enforcement in Minnesota in 2026
In 2026 Minnesota has been the epicenter of some of the largest federal and state fraud crackdowns in recent U.S. history. This session discusses state and federal cooperation for cases arising out of recent fraud scandals, prosecutions of Medicaid fraud, new legislation, crypto, digital assets, and other financial crimes.
– *Harry M. Jacobs*
Joseph H. Thompson
Kristi A. Nielsen

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
LUNCH BREAK
Courtesy of Minnesota CLE
Enjoy lunch on your own or join your colleagues at Fogo de Chão for good food and great conversations.

FOGO DE CHÃO CHURRASCARIA

	1:00 – 1:45 p.m. BREAKOUT A	1:55 – 2:40 p.m. BREAKOUT B	2:50 – 3:35 p.m. BREAKOUT C
DWI ADVOCACY	101 **Battling the Badge: Advanced Techniques for Cross-Examining the DWI Officer on SFSTs and DRE Protocols** – *Daniel J. Koewler* *Charles A. Ramsay* *David J. Risk* *Jeffrey S. Sheridan*	201 **The Science of Doubt: Advanced Strategies for Challenging Blood, Breath, and Urine Test Results** – *Daniel J. Koewler* *Charles A. Ramsay*	301 **The Anatomy of an Implied Consent Challenge: Initial Filing, Discovery, Affirmative Defenses, and More** – *Caleb J. Anthony* *Daniel J. Koewler*
TRIAL MASTER CLASSES	102 **Applying Minnesota's New Aiding-and-Abetting Felony-Murder Standards to Old Convictions** – *Anders J. Erickson* *Robert I. Yount*	202 **3-Step Foolproof Hearsay Test and the *Washington v. Crawford* 6th Amendment Testimonial Rule** – *Alan F. Pendleton*	302 **Errors, Issues, and Impact: Appellate Advocacy for the Criminal Law Practitioner** – *Jodie Carlson* *Cathryn Middlebrook* *Thomas Ragatz* *Judge Jon Schmidt*
NEW DEVELOPMENTS	103 **From Geofences to License Plates: Litigating Digital Surveillance After *State v. Contreras-Sanchez* and *Chatrie v. United States*** – *Shawn P. Webb*	203 **Evaluating Post-Conviction Remedies: Overlaps, Distinctions, and Strategic Choices for Clemency, Expungement, Clean Slate and More** – *Clare A. Diegel* *Jon Geffen* *Carli E. Stark*	303 **Major Sentencing Changes Every Criminal Lawyer Needs to Know** – *Linda M. McBrayer* *Kelly Lynn Mitchell* *Nathaniel J. Reitz*
	1:45 – 1:55 p.m. NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR BREAK	2:40 – 2:50 p.m. NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR BREAK	3:35 – 3:45 p.m. NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR BREAK

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
Rule 20 and Beyond – Practical and Ethical Considerations for Handling Difficult Clients and Clients with Difficulties
1.0 ethics credit applied for
– *Anthony W. Bushnell*
Erica Madore
Jennifer L. Pradt

4:45 – 5:15 p.m.
The Annual CJI Reception

DAY 2 – AUGUST 20

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

PLENARY SESSIONS

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Minnesota State Court Judges Panel – A Practical Dialogue on Evidence, Courtroom Procedure, and 2026 Practice Dynamics
– *Judge Jean E. Burdorf*
Judge Leonardo Castro
Judge Bridgid E. Dowdal
Judge Juanita C. Freeman
Nicole A. Kettwick, moderator

10:00 – 10:05 a.m.
BREAK

10:05 – 10:50 a.m.
Fraud, Gun Control, Grooming, and More – What Passed and Didn't Pass – The 2026 Minnesota Legislative Update
– *Courtney R. Jasper*
Natalia Mydraga

10:50 – 11:00 a.m.
NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR BREAK

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.
Review of Important Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decisions
– *Judge Colette Routel*

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Federalism, Sovereignty and Criminal Enforcement in Minnesota
The actions of federal agents in Minnesota in 2026, and the responses of citizens, jurists, and attorneys, are not just disputes about immigration enforcement, but constitutional questions about the limits of federal power over state sovereignty and civil liberties. This session analyzes 10th Amendment state sovereignty, local public safety polices, and the legal ramifications of federal tactical deployments and their intersection with state criminal court cases.
– *Professor David A. Schultz*

12:30 – 1:15 p.m.
LUNCH BREAK (on your own)

	1:15 – 2:15 p.m. BREAKOUT D	2:30 – 3:30 p.m. BREAKOUT E
SPECIAL INTEREST	401 **A New Day for Youth Justice – Analyzing the Impact and Readiness of Minnesota's New Juvenile Frameworks** – *Molly K. Bruner* *Judge Sean Cahill* *John J. Choi*	501 TECHNOLOGY 30-MINUTE QUICKTAKES **Getting Clients in the DIY Era of of Gemini, GhatGPT, and AI Summaries** – *Ryan J. Tauer* **5 Ways AI Can Help You Better Serve Your Clients** – *Wesley J. Cornwell*
TIMELY TOPICS	402 [2-hour session] **The Dirty Dozen – 12 Topics in 120 Minutes** – *Marsh J. Halberg, moderator* 1. Disabled Datamaster Fuel Cell – *Jeffrey A. Sheridan* 2. Reducing Probation Violations – *Cory R. Tennison* 3. NHSTA Manual Issues – *David J. Risk* 4. The Legal Mind of William Shakespeare – *Jon Foss* 5. Top 10 Legal Pet Peeves – *Michael J. Brandt* 6. Jesse James and the 1896 Northfield Bank Robbery – *Councilor Brad Ness* 7. The First Ten Minutes on a Death Scene – *Commander Jeff Schwab* 8. Free the People Legal Advocacy Program – *Bernice B. Woods* 9. Sleep CSI – Sleepwalking Homicides, Really? – *Dr. Michel A. Cramer Bornemann* 10. Brady Giglio Obligations – *Marissa A. Lundgren* 11. A View From the Bench – *Judge Gina M. Brandt* 12. SBIRT for DWI Defendants – *Matthew L. Hartung*	

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.
NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR BREAK

CAN'T ATTEND IN PERSON ON AUGUST 19 & 20?

Attend the limited online replay on **September 10 & 11, 2026**.

The limited online replay includes select sessions. A moderator will be available to answer questions by e-mail.

All Attendees Will Receive:

- Minnesota DWI Laws Legal Quicksheet – updated March 2026
- 90 days of electronic access to the Linked Law Judges Criminal Benchbook – updated March 2026
- 90 days of electronic access to the LinkedLaw DWI Deskbook – newly updated June 2025
- 40% off all Deskbooks
- the 2026 Minnesota Criminal Code Book
- the ability to watch all Institute sessions for one year (not for CLE credit)
- electronic access to materials and PowerPoint slides during and up to one year after the Institute

INSTITUTE INFORMATION

LIVE IN PERSON
Wednesday & Thursday, August 19 & 20, 2026
Minnesota CLE Conference Center
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370
Third Floor City Center, Minneapolis

LIMITED ONLINE REPLAY
Thursday & Friday, September 10 & 11, 2026
View online at www.minncle.org
The limited online replay includes select sessions. A moderator will be available to answer questions by e-mail.

HOW TO REGISTER
Register online at www.minncle.org.
Email **customerservice@minncle.org** or call **800-759-8840** for assistance.

COURSE MATERIALS
In-person attendees will receive hard copies of any course materials submitted. All attendees will have access to all course materials via their Minnesota CLE online accounts.

CREDITS
Minnesota CLE is applying to the Minnesota State Board of CLE for a total of **11.25 CLE credits, including 1.0 ethics credit**. Application is also being made to the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board for POST credits, and the Minnesota State Bar Association for criminal law specialist credits.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Minnesota CLE maintains a scholarship program for those with a financial need. Contact **customerservice@minncle.org** or for further details or to obtain an application.

ACCOMMODATION
If you have a disability and need an accommodation in order to attend this seminar, please contact Minnesota CLE as soon as possible at **800-759-8840** or **customerservice@minncle.org**.

CANCELLATION POLICY / NO-SHOW POLICY
Paid registrants who cancel before the seminar will receive a refund. Paid registrants who do not cancel and are unable to attend will retain access to all seminar materials through their Minnesota CLE website account.

QUESTIONS?
customerservice@minncle.org
www.minncle.org
800-759-8840